



City of Jacksonville 2015 Veteran's Awards



Joseph G. Traumer **AMVETS Post 225**

Past Post Commander Traumer has been the Post motivator for the last 14 years. He has been the Operation DVD program Chairperson and traveled over 960 miles to collect over 3,000 new and used DVD's and CD's for our troops overseas. He has also driven over 150,000 miles assisting veterans and donating thousands of hours of his time. He is a current member of the Onslow Commission for Persons with Disabilities as well as Co-Veteran Liaison to the City of Jacksonville and Onslow County.



John Cooney **Beirut Memorial Chapter 642** **Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Patriot John Cooney has been the Adjutant for over 10 years and he is described as the "heart and corporate knowledge" of the Chapter. He maintains a database of over 700 members, organizes and coordinates Chapter events and is also the editor and publisher of a Chapter bi-monthly newsletter. He provides a constant source of ideas to further the mission of supporting the combat wounded and promoting the purposes of the Purple Heart.



Commander John Bryant, Jr. **Disabled American Veterans** **Onslow County Chapter 16**

Commander Bryant is a Desert Shield/Desert Storm combat veteran with over 20 years of active service in the Marine Corps. While Commander of Chapter 16 he succeeded in reaching goals for membership and community service making Onslow County Chapter 16 the 2nd largest chapter in North Carolina with over 2,500 members. John currently serves as the District 3 Committeeman representing and assisting 6 other DAV Chapters throughout Eastern North Carolina. He was chosen over 61 other Chapter Commanders within the State and awarded the "Commander of the Year" by the Dept of NC DAV.



Becky Corbin **Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary** **Onslow County Chapter 16**

Ms. Corbin serves as the DAV Auxiliary Chaplain as well as the Chairman of the DAV Auxiliary Scholarship Fund. She organized the weekly DAV Auxiliary Craft Day where she makes lap robes, quilts and wheelchair bags for ill and injured veterans that are in various nursing homes throughout North Carolina. She believes in God and Country and has an unwavering passion and dedication to helping veterans.



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Gail Horn

Division of Workforce Solutions, Veterans Unit

Ms. Horn works tirelessly for local Veterans and their families. In the past year she assisted homeless veterans with basic needs and stabilization in order to obtain and maintain suitable employment. She conducted 14 workshops related to employment, was responsible for the hire of 14 Veterans, and facilitated 10 Department of Labor Veterans' Services Briefs to 668 separating service members. Ms. Horn was selected as the 2014 American Legion, Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year and Runner-up for National recognition. She is the most recent recipient of the "Whitey Welborne Award" and has spent her entire life committed to the military, serving 25 years in the Marine Corps and retiring as a Master Gunnery Sergeant.



Paul Siverson

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 208

Retired Marine Sergeant Major and Shipmate Paul Siverson currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Branch. He is an extremely dedicated Shipmate who never hesitates to step up and assume any given task when called upon. He is also a member of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps League, and Disabled American Veterans. He is actively involved in the planning for the Mack McKinney Award Ceremony and has served as the Master of Ceremonies since 2001. He sets the highest of examples for his Shipmates.



Elizabeth Horn

Loyal Escorts of the Green Garter, Women Marines Association of NC-1, Tarheel Chapter

Ms. Horn is an active volunteer for a number of organizations in Onslow County including the USO, the Women Marines Association, The Vietnam Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. She has utilized her photography talents by photographing numerous events and designed the cover of the program for the Vietnam Recognition Day ceremony. Ms. Horn photographically recorded the event for the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 654. She continues to support the Association and local Veterans by volunteering her time and talents to their benefit.



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George M. Barrows, Sr. Marine Corps League, Onslow County Detachment #262

Mr. Barrows is past Jr. Commandant of Onslow County Marine Corps League Detachment #262 and the 2001 National Marine of the Year. He has over 47 years of membership in the Marine Corps League. He performs many tasks for the organization and the City of Jacksonville, including organizing the Beirut Celebration at Camp Geiger. The League stated that George Barrows has been the mainstay of their organization in keeping it organized and running smoothly. They said in their opinion he was the epitome of hard work and dedication and commendation for all he does.



Jerome (Joe) Kusy, US Army, Retired Military Order of the Cootie, VFW Post 9133

As a member of long standing, Mr. Kusy not only takes charge of monthly "Cookie Calls" (hospital visits), he makes it a point to visit the elderly and shut-ins while performing their yard work and making household repairs. He serves in many capacities including upkeep of the Post Home and participation in all fundraising events. Never asking what needs to be done nor expecting any reward, he sees a need and fulfills it.



Lydia Schneider Military Order of the Cootie, VFW Post 9133 Ladies Auxiliary

Last year Ms. Schneider was welcomed into the VFW's Honor Degree, having distinguished herself as a "Can-Do" volunteer for the Post's Auxiliary. No matter the reason or the season, Ms. Schneider has always been one of the first to step up. Whether baking sweet treats for monthly "Cookie Calls" to disabled veterans, acting the clown at hospital visits, or pitching in whenever needed at Post and fundraising events, Ms. Schneider's continuing and tireless support of the Post's efforts has been an inspiration to all.



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Julianne Froncek-Williams **Military Order of the Devil Dog #143**

Pedigree Devil Dog Julianne Froncek-Williams is currently the Pound Keeper, a post she has held for the past three years. She directs and officiates at the Beirut Ceremony at the Memorial Circle at Camp Geiger each year. The Military Order of the Devil Dog is the Fun & Honor Society of the Marine Corps League and the money collected at annual events is for the Pound to contribute to various organizations within the community. She is also the chairman of the Annual Flea Market for the organization.



William Michael Joseph **Military Retiree Council,** **Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune**

Mr. Joseph is the Director of the Joseph "Randy" Reichler Joint Reception Center and is a retired Chief Warrant Officer from the Marine Corps. He has served as the Secretary for the Military Retiree Council for the past 4 years. His professionalism and attention to detail are crucial to the effectiveness of the organization. He attends all Military Council Meetings, Retiree breakfasts and other various meetings while still holding a full time job.

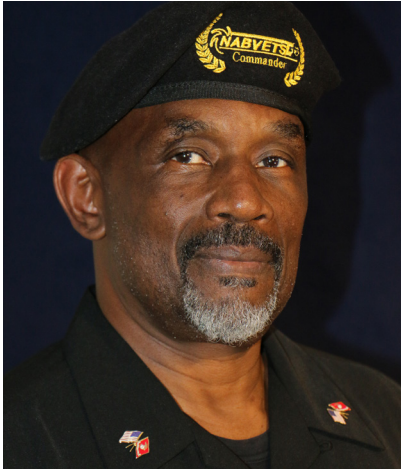


Gwendolyn Maddox **Montford Point Marine Association** **Camp Lejeune Chapter 10, Ladies Auxiliary**

Ms. Maddox has held several positions within the Ladies Auxiliary, including the current Vice President, past Sergeant-at-Arms and chairperson for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Black & White Scholarship Ball. She has spearheaded food sales at Riverwalk Palooza festival and many other fundraising events in support of the Scholarship Ball. She is a foster parent and is a member of other various community outreach organizations.



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Commander Ronald R. Dixon **NABVETS ENC-VUCS Chapter #0069**

(Eastern North Carolina Veterans United for Community Service)

Commander Dixon is a retired First Sergeant serving 28 years in the United States Marine Corps. He holds a deep compassion for disabled veterans and their families. He has completed over 40 hours of training in order to serve as a Volunteer Veterans Service Officer and works with the Youth Empowerment Ministry at his church to recruit and train youth to become NABVETS Color Guard Members. One of his most notable contributions was his assistance in the construction of a Memorial Wall at Carolina Rivers Nursing & Rehabilitation Center to bring honor to the disabled veterans who reside there.



Paul McClarin **NABVETS Marine Chapter #0054**

Mr. McClarin retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Master Gunnery Sergeant after more than 20 years of service. He joined NABVETS, Marine Chapter #0054 in 2012 and shortly thereafter was appointed Operations Officer, a position he still holds today. Mr. McClarin was appointed by the Commander to Chair the 3rd Annual Veterans Family and Friends Cookout and he organized one of the largest cookout events the Chapter ever held. His commitment is very deserving of recognition.



Charlie Pinchon **NABVETS Military Women's Chapter #008**

Ms. Pinchon retired from the United States Marine Corps with over 20 years of service. She is currently the Historian and Secretary of the Chapter. She is a hard worker, dedicated, loyal and always striving towards the success of the organization's mission. Ms. Pinchon is a vital link to "Bridging the Gap" between veterans and the community. She is a team leader and facilitator and is a valuable asset to the organization.



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Wayne W Morris **Non Commissioned Officers Association** **Down East Chapter #906**

Mr. Morris has been a member of the NCOA since 2013. He was selected for the Sergeant Major Mack McKinney Award in 2014 for his untiring efforts with the military retiree community. Mr. Morris has been instrumental in planning and executing many events to benefit active duty members, veterans and their families. He is a true representative of the NCOA's values and the spirit that embodies all military veterans.



Mary Alice Gomez-Reichler **Non Commissioned Officers Association of** **the United States of America, Crystal Coast** **Auxiliary #275**

As a Life Member, Ms. Gomez-Reichler serves many community organizations such as the DAV, Onslow Caregivers, Military Widows, and Gold Star Wives of America. She volunteers annually for the Festival of Trees held at the American Legion and has been a guest speaker at the Mack McKinney event. Her work and commitment are extremely valuable to the organization and her recognition is well deserved.



Gail Horn **Onslow County Council of** **Veterans Organizations**

Ms. Horn is a retired Mastery Gunnery Sergeant from the United States Marine Corps who continues to serve her Country and the community. As a Disabled Veteran Outreach Specialist, she works to assist veterans in gaining employment. She also works with homeless veterans to assist them in obtaining housing, clothing and transportation. She is the Secretary of the OCCOVO as well as a member of the Women Marine Association, the DAV, Military Retiree Council and she also serves as the Veterans Service Officer for the VFW, all while maintaining her full time employment.



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Anthony "Tony" Maltese **Rolling Thunder, Inc. Chapter NC-5**

Mr. Maltese is a retired Marine and disabled veteran. He currently serves as a member of the Chapter Board of Directors, an elected position. He is the epitome of a volunteer, working tirelessly to educate the public regarding POW/MIA issues. He is highly regarded and respected by all Chapter Members and sets a great example for his peers.



Timothy B. Manchester **Swansboro Detachment,** **Marine Corps League #1407**

Marine Manchester had a pivotal role in the installation of the Swansboro Detachment and his efforts have never wavered. He has organized, recruited, and found a location to hold meetings all while on active duty. He has created multiple fundraising events, maintains the Facebook page, website, photos of all events and the newsletter. As the Commandant of Swansboro Marine Corps League, he also finds time to help veterans, active duty Marines, and the community.



Donna Ditson **The American Legion, Burton-Cowell Post 265, Inc.**

Ms. Ditson is a retired Master Sergeant from the United States Marine Corps with 23 years of service. She is a 5 year member of Post 265 and is currently the historian. She helps support many events such as Thursday night Bingo, Volunteer Benefit Activity Centers, Christmas Cheer, Onslow County Fair and the Veterans Day Parade. She is also the Post Photographer and maintains the Post web page.

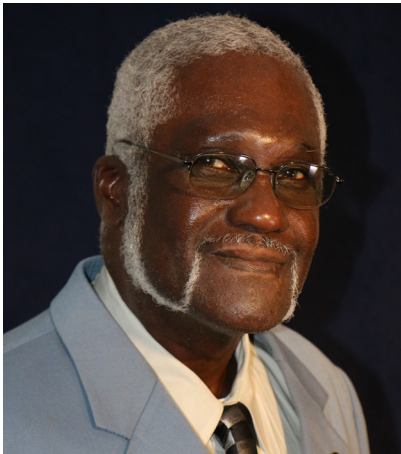


Katherine Marino **The American Legion, Burton-Cowell Auxiliary** **Unit Post 265, Inc.**

Ms. Marino has been an active member and vital part of the organization since 2009. She sells raffle tickets, makes cakes and sandwiches for Bingo Night. Ms. Marino and her husband are always out in May for Memorial Day handing out Memorial Poppies to remember those who gave their lives in war. She also helps with Christmas Cheer and the Pearl Harbor Remembrance.



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Samuel Gupton **The Captain John C Carr Veteran** **Resource Center**

Mr. Gupton has been a member of the organization for the past 15 years. He leads the outreach program and mentoring programs with younger service personnel. He is also the Jr. ROTC Chairman and works with 11 local high schools. He is a born leader and not afraid of hard work or new challenges despite his own disabilities.



Dan Grace **Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9133**

Mr. Grace served 9 years in the United States Marine Corps and joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2004. He is presently the Post Adjutant and House Committee Chairman. He also works aboard Camp Lejeune with the FOCUS Program that provides resiliency training for active duty military service members and their families. His commitment to his comrades and persistence to continually aid veterans and other service members in and around the community has earned him the respect of his fellow comrades.



John Matson **Vietnam Veterans of America,** **Jon Panarese Chapter 654**

Mr. Matson served 30 years in the United States Marine Corps, is a member of the Chapter Board of Directors, and represents the Chapter at the Onslow County Council of Veterans Organization. For the past four years he has prepared and organized the annual Veterans Day Ceremony in conjunction with Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune. He is also a member of the North Carolina Committee for the Support of the Guard and Reserve, providing reemployment rights briefs to active duty marines and sailors. He is also a member of the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune Retiree Council.



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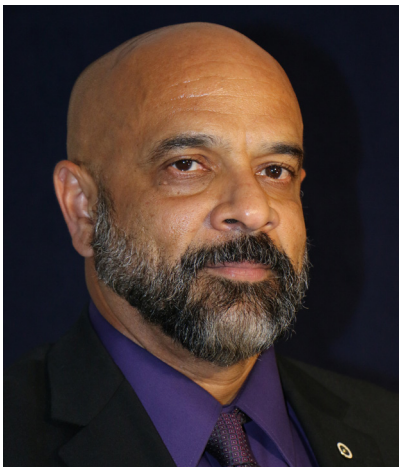
Jeannine Franz **Women Marines Association, Tarheel Chapter, NC-1**

Ms. Franz is an active duty United States Marine Corps Master Sergeant that repeatedly goes above and beyond to serve active duty and veteran service members. She has been a life member of the Women Marines Association since 2007 and is a charter member of the Women of War Chapter. She has chaired the Anniversary Celebration the Association holds annually, coordinating the site, recruiting and training the active duty color guard and preparing and executing the narration for the ceremony.



Dallas C. Poole, Sr. **Wounded Warrior Battalion-East**

Mr. Poole is a retired Master Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps with 26 years of service. He currently serves as the Veteran and Charitable Organization Coordinator. He joined in 2013 and made an immediate and tremendous impact on mission readiness in support of wounded and ill Marines and their families. He is the sole point of contact between the Battalion and over 150 veteran service and charitable organizations, and has conducted more than 130 charitable events. He coordinated the first ever Veteran & Charitable Organization Symposium on January 23, 2015. He is exceptionally valuable to the mission of his organization.



Luis J. Alers-Dejesus **City of Jacksonville Veteran Liaison**

Mr. Luis Alers is the City's appointed Veteran Liaison. As the City's Veteran Liaison, he is responsible for ensuring that the City of Jacksonville is aware of what is happening in the Veteran community and keeping our veterans groups apprised of what we are working on in the City. The City of Jacksonville appreciates his steadfast support and tireless efforts in working with us to support Veterans throughout our community.